

Assistive Technology Update



Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation

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Center for Accessible Living and KATLC to Pilot Financial Literacy Training *Plans Are To Go Statewide in 2008*

This fall, the Center for Accessible Living in Louisville and KATLC will pilot a financial literacy training program for individuals with disabilities. A group of participants in the Louisville metropolitan area will be selected to participate in a four one-day training sessions. The curriculum for the training is currently being developed.

Because of low employment rates, generally low pay, high poverty rates and a high rate of dependence upon government benefit programs, among other factors, individuals with disabilities often do not have the same opportunities as the general population to participate in the financial mainstream of society. In the loan applications it receives, KATLC has repeatedly seen the results of this: little or no credit history, bad credit, charge-offs, bankruptcies and more. Individuals with disabilities, young and old, need access to financial institutions. This pilot training program will be designed to raise the financial literacy of the participants, especially in regards to consumer credit transactions and will hopefully facilitate financial independence through asset accumulation and the responsible use of credit.

After the initial pilot is conducted in Louisville, the curriculum will be modified and adapted as needed and the training will be replicated at the state's other five independent living centers. Those centers are in Bowling Green, Covington, Harlan, Lexington and Murray. One expected result of this program will be to build the capacity among the independent living centers to assist individuals with disabilities on personal finance issues.

AT Conference Held For Fourth Consecutive Year *Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital Hosts Event*

The Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC), in partnership with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Kentucky AgrAbility, the Human Development Institute (HDI) and Kentucky Protection and Advocacy, recently sponsored the 4th Annual Summer Workshops on Assistive Technology in Lexington.

The two-day conference was attended by more than 50 assistive technology practitioners from around the state. Participants included rehabilitation engineers, counselors and technologists. It was a cross-section of Kentucky's assistive technology experts. As in the past, Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital hosted this year's conference.

There were a wide range of topics on the agenda, including Aging at Home and in the Workplace, Transition from School to Work and Postsecondary Education, Working with Read and Write Software, Electronic Text, The Ups and Downs of Lifts: How to Get From Down Here to Up There and Funding for Assistive Technology. An employer, Kay Mathis from Citi® in Louisville, discussed her company's initiatives in providing assistive technology as accommodations for its employees worldwide.

This year's conference was held on June 27 and 28. No dates have been announced for next year's event.



Dr. Barney Fleming presents at the 2007 AT Summer Workshops

Sorenson Communications Provides Free Video Relay Service

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Sorenson Communications™ provides free video relay services to American Sign Language (ASL) users. The Sorenson Video Relay Service® (VRS) delivers the highest quality video image without complex technology to install. Using the Sorenson VP-100 videophone, Sorenson Envision SL software or NetMeeting software, deaf users can make calls to family members, friends, or business associates through an ASL interpreter. The Sorenson VRS Interpreting Centers use only interpreters certified by the National Association of the Deaf or those who hold a state Intermediate or Master Certificate or have professional interpreting experience.

All Sorenson interpreting services are fully paid for by a federal fund administered by the National Exchange Carriers Association (NECA) to comply with ADA requirements for functional equivalency in telecommunications access. The Sorenson VP-100 videophone is also provided free to individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

To use any of the three modes of access to the Sorenson VRS, you must have a high speed broadband Internet connection. Applications for the videophone can be filled out online at www.sorensonvrs.com.



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KATLC Loan Activity Update

January 1 to June 30, 2007

Number of Applications:	64
Number of Approved:	37
Number of Loans Made:	32
Types of AT Purchased	
Hearing Aids:	13
Vehicles/Vehicle Modifications:	18
Home Modifications	1
Total Dollar Amount of Loans:	\$332,743
Total Outstanding Balance of All KATLC Loans:	\$1,789,459.12

Home available in Lexington Area

Wheelchair Accessible

\$189,000.00

- Entire first floor is planned for wheelchair access.
- Includes roll-in showers and pocket doors.
- Lower electric switches and shower controls.
- Hardwood floors throughout home.
- Over 2,500 sq. feet.

If interested call Brett Jackson from
Home Works Realty
Office: (859) 971-9711
Cell: (859) 221-0503

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The Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) offers low interest loans through its lending partner Fifth Third Bank for qualified applicants who need any type of assistive technology or home modification that will increase a person's mobility or enable them to become more independent.

For more information or to receive an application call Sarah Richardson or Nanci Shelden toll free at 1-877-675-0195.

Update is a publication of the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC).

The Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, or marital status in employment, or provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all program activities.

(Compiled by Dave Matheis, Sarah Richardson
and Nanci Shelden)

